GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2204
ANSWERED ON:06.08.2001
LABOUR STANDARDS
ANANDRAO ADSUL;DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government to meet the WTO norms set for labour standards in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are under pressure from the MNCs in this regard; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to protect the interests of Indian labourers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI MUNI LALL)

(a) to (d) There are no WTO norms set for labour standards. However, the linkage between trade and labour standards was proposed by some developed countries in the First Ministerial Conference of the WTO held in Singapore in 1996 as well as in the Third Ministerial Conference in Seattle in 1999.The developing countries, including India, had been successful in opposing the inclusion of linkage between trade and labour standards in WTO in both the Conferences.However, some of the foreign importers including some MNCs in some developed countries, aparently due to thepressure from the consumers, have started demanding proof from their exporters that the goods to be exported to them have been produced by adhering to labour standards. While resisting the linkage between trade & labour standards India is fully committed to the implementation of labour laws for the welfare of workers.